

Date: April 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

2026 '99 APR 20 P2:25

Re: Docket # 98N-1038 "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food.

To whom this may concern:

Consumers have the right to know. The FDA has the responsibility to set the standards in the public interest. Thus, clear non-deceptive labeling of the food we eat is most important to the citizens of this great country.

I am concerned with efforts by the nuclear industry to do away with or obscure labeling of food treated with irradiation. The data I have read on the process convinces me that it affects the characteristics of the food itself in terms of texture, spoilage and nutrient loss in many fruits and vegetables.

Irradiation is clearly a material fact in the processing of food. It produces chemical changes that are not always apparent to the shopper in the produce section. I want to know what I'm buying whether its treated with irradiation or grown under strict standards that qualify an "organic" label. I believe in choice-INFORMED choice.

DO NOT LET THE FDA'S LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO EXPIRE! Require that the playing field be level with truthful labeling of material facts that affect our food supply. Retain the "radura" symbol readily visible on any food treated with irradiation. Put it next to the clearly labeled organically-grown foodstuffs. Let the buyer decide!

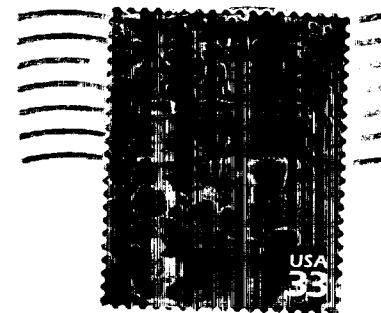
Yours truly,

Gary Sanchez
177 Maunale St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

98N-1038

C755

GARCIA SANCHEZ
177 Maunalele St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96721



DOCKET'S MANAGEMENT BRANCH
(HEA-305) FOOD + DRUG ADMIN.
5360 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 100/
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

20852/9999

